

Application No. 09/594,654

Filed: June 15, 2000

TC Art Unit: 2132

Confirmation No.: 9274

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A remote access system for a secure computer network, comprising:

an agent operative in conjunction with said secure computer network;

an intermediary operative in conjunction with a network entity distinct from said secure computer network; and

a manager for defining a directive to be executed by said agent, wherein

said manager and said intermediary are capable of establishing secure communications therebetween,

said intermediary and said agent are capable of establishing secure communications therebetween,

said agent is operative to provide and said intermediary is operative to receive agent-specific authenticating data,

said intermediary is operative to receive agent-specific authenticating data from said manager and to compare said agent-specific authenticating data from said manager with said agent-specific authenticating data from said agent, and

said manager is operative to convey said directive to be executed to said intermediary and said agent is operative to receive said directive to be executed from said intermediary prior to executing said directive if said comparison by said intermediary of said agent-specific authenticating data provided by said agent and said agent-authenticating data provided by said manager yields a predetermined result.

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2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said agent is operative to execute said directive and to return results of said executed directive to said intermediary.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said intermediary is operative to forward said results of said executed directive to said manager subsequent to said return of said results to said intermediary by said agent.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said agent is operative to block pending receipt of said directive to be executed from manager via said intermediary.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said agent and said intermediary are capable of authenticating each other prior to establishing said secure communications therebetween.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said manager and said intermediary are capable of authenticating each other prior to establishing said secure communications therebetween.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said manager is a web browser and said intermediary is a web server.

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10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a ~~first single~~ data pathway between said agent and said intermediary ~~and a second for each data pathway between said manager and said intermediary and said agent, wherein at least one of said first and second data pathways is comprised of the Internet.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A method of remotely servicing a secure computer system, comprising:

establishing a first secure communications pathway between a manager and an intermediary distinct from the secure computer system;

establishing a second secure communications pathway between the intermediary and the secure computer system;

providing authentication reference data from the secure computer system to the intermediary;

providing authentication data from the manager to the intermediary;

comparing the authentication data to the authentication reference data for a predetermined result; and

if the predetermined result is realized, conveying a directive to be executed from the manager to the secure computer system via the intermediary distinct from said secure computer system over a the first and second secure communications pathways, and

~~receiving, by an agent of said secure computer system, said directive to be executed from said intermediary over a second secure communications pathway; and~~

~~executing, by said agent, said directive to executed.~~

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12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising establishing said first secure communications pathway by said manager conveying manager-identifying data to said intermediary.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising establishing said second secure communications pathway by said agent conveying agent-identifying data to said intermediary.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising establishing said second secure communications pathway by said intermediary conveying intermediary-identifying data to said agent.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said establishment of said first secure communications pathway between said manager and said intermediary comprises using a web browser as said manager and accessing a web server as said intermediary.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
returning, by said agent, results of an executed directive to said intermediary; and  
returning, by said intermediary, said executed directive results to said manager.

18. (Currently Amended) A remote servicing system intermediary for a secure computer system, comprising:

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a web server communicable, over a first secure communications link, with a manager application running on a management computer system and, over a second secure communications link, with an agent application running on said secure computer system; and

a secure data storage facility accessible by said web server,

said web server capable of spawning operative

to receive manager-identifying data from said agent application over said second secure communications link and to store said manager-identifying data in said secure data storage facility,

to receive submitted manager-identifying data from said manager application over said first secure communications link,

to compare said submitted manager-identifying data with said stored manager-identifying data, and, if said comparison yields a predetermined result,

to spawn a first sub-process for receiving, over said first secure communications link, a directive to be executed by said secure computer system, and

~~— said web server capable of spawning to spawn~~ a second sub-process for transmitting, over said second secure communications link, said directive to be executed by said secure computer system.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The intermediary of claim 18, further comprising a digital certificate to be conveyed to said agent and

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~~to said manager application by said web server over said second secure communications link for enabling authentication of authenticating said intermediary.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The intermediary of claim 18, further comprising an access database in communication with said web server for defining which secure computer systems, communicable with said intermediary, said manager application may define directives for.

23. (Currently Amended) The intermediary of claim 18, wherein said ~~intermediary web server~~ is operative to receive results of ~~said an~~ executed directive from said secure computer system over said second secure communications link and is further operative to convey said results to said manager application over said first secure communications link.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an intermediary for the remote servicing of a secure computer system, comprising:

providing a first digital certificate to an agent application running on said secure computer system in response to a request from said agent application for the purpose of authenticating said intermediary to said agent application;

storing reference identifying information received from said agent application in a secure storage facility accessible by said intermediary;

~~providing a second digital certificate to a manager in response to a request from said manager for the purpose of authenticating said intermediary to said manager;~~

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receiving ~~said first~~ identifying information from said manager;

selectively approving the accessibility of said intermediary to said manager by analysis of said first identifying information by said intermediary ~~for the purpose of authenticating said manager to said intermediary;~~

receiving second identifying data from said manager;

comparing, by said intermediary, said second identifying information with said reference identifying data; and

if a predetermined result is achieved by said comparison, receiving, from said manager, a directive to be executed by said agent application and

forwarding said directive to said agent application for execution.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

receiving results of said executed directive from said agent application at said intermediary; and

forwarding said results to said manager by said intermediary.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

storing a list of secure computer systems, communicable with said intermediary, ~~and for which said manager,~~ identified by said step of selectively approving, may define directives to be executed.

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27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

establishing a first secure communications pathway between said intermediary and said agent application in response to said agent application authenticating said intermediary based upon said provision of said first digital certificate from said intermediary to said agent application.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

establishing a second secure communications pathway between said intermediary and said manager in response to said ~~manager~~ intermediary authenticating said ~~intermediary manager~~ based upon said provision of said ~~second digital certificate~~ first identifying data from said ~~intermediary manager~~ to said ~~manager~~ intermediary and in response said ~~receipt of said identifying information from said manager by said intermediary.~~